

his message was for all people, of all races, creeds, colors and backgrounds. His message is universal and should be heeded by all citizens of America and, in fact, all citizens of the world.

Dr. King contributed more to the causes of national freedom and equality than any other individual of the 20th century. His achievements as an author and as a minister were surpassed only by his leadership, which transformed a torn people into a beacon of strength and solidarity, and united a divided nation under a common creed of brotherhood and mutual prosperity.

It was Dr. King's policy of nonviolent protest which served to open the eyes of our Nation to the horrors of discrimination and police brutality. This policy revealed the Jim Crow laws of the South as hypocritical and unfair, and forced civil rights issues into the national dialectic. It is due to the increased scope and salience of the national civil rights discussion that the movement achieved so much during its decade of our greatest accomplishment, from 1957 to 1968.

It was in 1955 that Dr. King made his first mark on our nation, when he organized the black community of Montgomery, Alabama during a 382-day boycott of the city's bus lines. The boycott saw Dr. King and many other civil rights activists incarcerated as "agitators," but their efforts were rewarded in 1956, when the U.S. Supreme Court declared that the segregation practices of the Alabama bus system were unconstitutional, and demanded that blacks be allowed to ride with equal and indistinguishable rights. The result proved the theory of nonviolent protest in practice, and roused our Nation to the possibilities to be found through peace and perseverance.

In 1963, Dr. King and his followers faced their most ferocious test, when they set a massive civil rights protest in motion in Birmingham, Alabama. The protest was met with brute force by the local police, and many innocent men and women were injured through the violent response. However, the strength of the police department worked against the forces of discrimination in the nation, as many Americans came to sympathize with the plight of the blacks through the sight of their irrational and inhumane treatment.

By August of 1963 the civil rights movement had achieved epic proportions, and it was in a triumphant and universal air that Dr. King gave his memorable "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. In the next year, Dr. King was distinguished as Time magazine's Man of the Year for 1963, and he would later be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1964.

Throughout his remaining years, Dr. King continued to lead our nation toward increased peace and unity. He spoke out against the Vietnam war, and led our Nation's War on Poverty. To Dr. King the international situation was inextricably linked to the domestic, and thus it was only through increased peace and prosperity at home that tranquility would be ensured abroad.

When Dr. King was gunned down in 1968 he had already established himself as a national hero and pioneer. As the years passed his message continued to gather strength and

direction, and it is only in the light of his multi-generational influence that the true effects of his ideas can be measured. Dr. King was a man who lacked neither vision nor the means and courage to express it. His image of a strong and united nation overcoming the obstacles of poverty and inequality continues to provide us with an ideal picture of the "United" states which still fills the hearts of Americans with feelings of brotherhood and a common purpose for years to come.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to bear in mind the courageous, dedicated deeds of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and to join together on Monday, January 15, 2001, in solemn recollection of his significant contributions for enhancing human rights throughout our nation and throughout the world.

#### BUD SHUSTER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

#### HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, January 6, 2001*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, twenty-eight years ago it was my great privilege to win my first nomination to the United States Congress from the 9th District of Pennsylvania. Since that memorable moment, it has been an even greater privilege to receive both the Republican and Democratic nominations nine times, a record never before achieved in Pennsylvania's history. For that opportunity to serve my country and the people of our region, I shall be forever grateful.

In recent months, both my wife, Patty, and I have been in hospitals with different health scares. While we remain optimistic, these experiences have caused me to re-evaluate my priorities and responsibilities.

On April 6th, when the President signed my AIR-21 aviation act for the 21st century, I realized I had reached the pinnacle of my Congressional career. That landmark legislation, coupled with my TEA-21 highway, transit and safety Act, which became law the previous year, is the realization of my long and sometimes lonely battle to unlock America's major transportation trust funds so we could re-build the nation's transportation systems for the 21st century. And last month we finally got our Water Resources bill signed into law, including the Everglades, the largest environmental restoration project in the world.

Having achieved these goals, after meeting with my family, we have decided now is the time for me to retire from Congress, as my Chairmanship of the largest and most productive committee in Congress comes to a close. While the scars of a hundred battles have taken a toll on both my family and me, in perspective, they are insignificant compared to the opportunities to do good things for people, or the broken neck I sustained in the course of my Congressional duties. All things considered, we decided now is the time to smell the roses while we still can.

Like my boyhood baseball idol, Lou Gehrig, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth—to have realized my dream of

becoming a U.S. Congressman. The opportunities to help thousands of people, to author major legislation to re-build America, to serve as the Chairman of the largest Committee in the history of Congress, and to have served as the Ranking Member of the Intelligence Committee during our historic victory in the Cold War, all have exceeded my fondest expectations.

Having decided to retire, it is neither in the best interests of my constituents, nor in my nature, for me to linger on as a "lame duck". By retiring at the end of this month, effective January 31st, the Governor can call a special election to quickly elect my successor for the new Congress. During the interim, our Congressional offices will continue to be staffed by the current employees to serve our District.

To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, now is the time for me to return to that higher station in life—that of a private citizen. My prayer is that God may bless America and the wonderful people who have supported me and my family through these many years.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE EIGHTMILE RIVER IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR STUDY FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

#### HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, January 6, 2001*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce my first legislative initiative—a bill to study the inclusion of Connecticut's Eightmile River as part of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

Eastern Connecticut is fortunate to have a wealth of natural beauty, such as the Eightmile River. The Eightmile River and the watershed it supports is an outstanding ecological system. The river has been identified as an exemplary occurrence of one of Connecticut's most imperiled natural communities. Its streams are free-flowing, contain excellent water quality and a diversity of aquatic habitats and fish species, including native and stocked trout. The Eightmile River is also an important recreational resource and figures prominently in the character of the communities in which it flows.

Unfortunately, the Eightmile River is not likely to remain in outstanding condition without a concerted community effort to protect it.

That's why on my very first day in Congress, I am introducing a bill authorizing the National Park Service to study and determine whether the Eightmile River is eligible for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River—beginning the process of achieving some of the strongest river protection possible while also meeting community and landowner needs.

For more than 30 years, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has safeguarded some of the nation's most precious rivers. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act pronounced that certain select rivers of the nation that possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational,